

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2006**

MEMBERS

Ross Wileman, Chairman
Carlos Vasquez
Roger Essick
Rob Wedin
John Lamb
Mark Wollam

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

Reuben Hofshi
Bob Bednar (absent)

CDFA

Donella Boreham
Rick Jensen

AIP

Jim Covey

INTERESTED PARTIES

Ohannes Karaoghlanian
Phil Gilligan
Mary Lu Arpaia
Kurt Florin

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Chairman Ross Wileman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 26, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

A copy of the October 26, 2005 meeting minutes is attached to these minutes and is identified as EXHIBIT A.

MOTION: Mark Wollam moved to approve the minutes without corrections. Carlos Vasquez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF MEMBERS:

Ross Wileman informed the committee that current members Bob Bednar and Mark Wollam could be nominated for another term. He announced that Carlos Vasquez and John Lamb had served their four-term limit.

Chairman Wileman called for nominations. The following people were nominated:

<u>Grower Member</u>	<u>Handler Member</u>	<u>Alternate Grower</u>	<u>Alternate Handler</u>
Bob Bednar	Reuben Hofshi	J. Philip Gilligan	Chris Varvel
Mark Wollam		Bruce Waddell	

MOTION: Roger Essick moved to approve the following people as AIC grower, handler, alternate grower and alternate handler members for the two-year term 2006-2008 and to recommend nomination to the California Avocado Commission (CAC) Board and the Secretary of Agriculture.

Mark Wollam	Grower Member
Reuben Hofshi	Handler Member
Bob Bednar	Grower Member
Phil Gilligan	Alternate Grower Member
Chris Varvel	Alternate Handler Member

John Lamb seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Note: Reuben Hofshi (alternate handler) moved to handler position

ITEM 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005/2006

Nominations for officers were made as follows:

Rob Wedin as Chairman
Roger Essick as Vice Chairman
Mark Wollam as Secretary/Treasurer

MOTION: John Lamb moved to approve nominations of Rob Wedin as Chairman, Roger Essick as Vice Chairman and Mark Wollam as Secretary/Treasurer for a one-year term. Carlos Vasquez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: MATURITY STANDARDS (HASS AND NEW VARIETIES)

Hass: Three Maturity Studies Reviewed

Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia reviewed and discussed the three independent Hass maturity studies that have been conducted since the 1970's in California. She summarized the study of Seung-Koo Lee in 1981, Cliff Ranney's study in 1998 and her Hass maturity project in 2002.

A copy of the Comparison of Three Avocado Maturity Studies is attached to these minutes and identified as EXHIBIT B.

A copy of Hass Maturity Project is attached to these Minutes and is identified as EXHIBIT C.

Gem and Harvest Minimum Maturity Standard 22.8%

Dr. Arpaia reviewed the data on Gem and Harvest varieties and a letter supporting that the minimum dry weight for Gem and Harvest should be set at 22.8%.

MOTION: Rob Wedin moved to establish the minimum maturity standard of 22.8% for Gem and Harvest. Carlos Vasquez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of Letter to Ross Wileman, Chairman (AIC) is attached to these Minutes and is identified as EXHIBIT D.

ITEM 6: UPDATE – SENSORY EVALUTATION FACILITY

Dr. Arpaia and Roger Essick updated the committee on the Sensory Evaluation Facility. Currently the Sensory Committee is seeking additional funding to build a permanent building rather than the modular building that was originally proposed.

The Sensory Committee consensus is to move ahead with the current funds available and obtain funding as the building is being constructed. The total needed is approximately \$150,000. Current funding is at \$75,000, of which \$55,000 is immediately available for site prep and plans.

A copy of Sensory Evaluation Facility Update is attached to these Minutes and identified as EXHIBIT E.

ITEM 7: PASSING OF AB 520

Kurt Floren, Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner, discussed AB 520 authorizing the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, or the County Agricultural Commissioner to, in lieu of prosecution, levy a civil fine against persons violating those provisions. He also discussed the proposed administrative civil penalties matrix for carrying out AB520. This allows the Secretary or Commissioner to levy a civil penalty against any person violating provisions relating to fruit, nut and vegetable standards. The matrix list specific violations and associated fines.

Chairman Wileman stated that the committee needed time to read and fully digest the laws, and a conference call would be set for further discussion.

A copy of Assembly Bill No. 520 is attached to these Minutes and is identified as EXHIBIT F.

A copy of Proposed Regulatory Language For AB 520 Administrative Civil Penalty Guidelines is attached to these Minutes and is identified as EXHIBIT G.

A copy of BILL NUMBER AB 520 CHAPTERED is attached to these Minutes and is identified as EXHIBIT H.

A copy of DRAFT-SUGGESTED FINE GUIDELINES-DRAFT is attached to these Minutes and is identified as EXHIBIT I.

ITEM 8: CDFA PROPOSED BUDGET 2006/2007

Donella Boreham presented members with the proposed California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) budget of \$169,482 for the (2006/2007) fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. This portion of Avocado Inspection Program budget covers overhead at CDFA and remains on the CDFA fiscal year basis (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007).

MOTION: Carlos Vasquez moved to approve the 2006/2007 CDFA portion of the Avocado Inspection Program budget in the amount of \$169,482. Mark Wollam seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

A copy of the CDFA Budget is attached to these Minutes and identified as EXHIBIT J.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wileman adjourned the meeting at 12:40 noon.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donella Boreham, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services